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CONGRESSMAN BLASTS REAGAN APPOINTMENT TO CIA PROBE

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D - Los Angeles) today denounced President Ford's appointment of former California Governor Ronald Reagan to the special panel investigating the domestic activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. Waxman stated, "Ronald Reagan was a strong and vocal supporter of Richard Nixon's actions in the Watergate affair, almost to the end. During his eight (8) years as Governor of California, he consistently opposed all Civil Liberties legislation. I cannot believe that he has a real concern about whether or not the CIA violated the Civil Liberties of American citizens by illegal spying in the United States."

"This is a very serious matter. The activities of the CIA have been secret and unquestioned for far too long. There is evidence that the Agency has abused its power, both at home and in foreign countries. The CIA can be of great benefit, but it has a tremendous potential for evil, especially if it has been spying on United States' citizens whose only crime is dissenting from government policy. Congress must take control of this Agency and make it accountable to the people of the United States."

Congressman Waxman charged that Congressional investigation is necessary because it is very doubtful that the

President's panel of investigators will reveal the whole truth. "Look at who the President appointed to the panel beside Reagan - General Lemnitzer was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the CIA's Bay of Pigs fiasco; Douglas Dillon was on the National Security Council as Treasury Secretary during the Bay of Pigs; and Nelson Rockefeller, who heads the panel has a long relationship with Henry Kissinger who has been supervising man CIA activities. President Ford's panel has no one who has been a champion of Civil Liberties and is loaded with representatives of the military industrial establishment that has benefitted most from the activities of the CIA. I strongly urge Congress to fully investigate the CIA's activities within the United States and to establish much tighter controls over this very powerful agency."

RB:ha

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